(b) whether it is also a fact that a comprehensive policy has been formulated by Government with a view to give relief to the indebted farmers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir. The details of targets set and achieved for the disbursement of loan to farmers by all banks during the years 2004-05 to 2007-08 have shown a continuous increase over year-on-year basis. The details are as follows:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Target	Achievements
2004-05	1,04,500	1,25,306
2005-06	1,41,000	1,80,486
2006-07	1,75,000	2,29,400
2007-08	2,25,000	*1,62,701

*Provisional figures upto December, 2007

(b) to (d) In the Union Budget 2008-09, the Government has announced a debt waiver and debt relief scheme for farmers, which covers all agricultural loans disbursed by Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks upto 31st March, 2007and overdue as on 31st December, 2007. The scheme stipulates complete waiver of all loans that were overdue on 31.12.2007 and which remained unpaid until 29.02.2008 for small and marginal farmers, while there is a One Time Settlement (OTS) scheme for other farmers during the same period. The OTS covers a rebate of 25% against payment of the balance amount of 75%.

Performance of Micro-Finance Institutions

1136. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has introduced any system of social accountability and performance audit of micro finance institutions and other agencies engaged in micro-finance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has data on important statistics on micro finance indicating State-wise, region-wise, district-wise and category-wise data on liabilities and assess, recovery performance, NPAs working capital etc. of micro finance institutions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) are presently not regulated in the

country. To regulate these MFIs, the Government has introduced a Bill in Lok Sabha on 20.03.2007 called "The Micro Financial Sector (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2007" to create environment friendly policy for micro-finance services in the country. The Bill is intended to provide a formal statutory framework for the promotion, development and regulation of the micro finance sector.

(c) to (e) As the MFIs are presently not regulated, the Data Reporting System does not generate such data.

Existence of unauthorised banks

†1137. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that unrecognized and unauthorized Banks are operating in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to put a check on their operations;

(c) whether the assistance of the State Governments have also been sought to put a check on the operations of these banks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Some co-operative societies have been found to be accepting deposits from members of public and misrepresenting themselves as 'co-operative banks' in various parts of the country. As and when such case comes to the notice of Reserve Bank of India, it issues public notices/press release in public interest and takes up the issue with the concerned Registrars of Co-operative Societies to identify the societies that have not obtained/applied for banking licence.

Opening of Indian banks in the USA

†1138. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian banks have sent several applications to the concerned United States departments in the year 2005, 2006 and 2007 for opening of new branches in the United States of America (USA);

(b) if so, the number of applications submitted to the USA Government in the above years for opening of new branches of banks;

(c) whether Indian banks have received approval on these applications for opening of new branches during each of the above years; and

(d) the number of branches of American banks functioning in India on December, 2007?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.